

New Duck Products Flock First Day June 25

(This article is based on information received from the Fish and Wildlife Service and the USPS as of May 25 and is subject to change. JFD.)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is hosting the First Day of Sale for the 2010-2011 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation (more familiarly known as the Duck stamp) and Junior Duck stamp on June 25 at the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World retail store at the Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover, Md. The stamp goes on sale nationwide June 25, 2010, and is valid through June 30, 2011.

The 2010-2011 Federal Duck Stamp features an American wigeon painted by wildlife artist Robert Bealle, of Waldorf, Md. Last fall, a panel of five judges chose Bealle's art to grace the new Duck Stamp from among 224 paintings at the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest, held at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Md.

Robert Bealle resides on a farm in Southern Maryland that has been in his family for over 285 years. A professional taxidermist for 12 years, specializing in freshwater fish, his taxidermy business eventually gave way to his interest in drawing and painting wildlife. Oils and watercolor are his mediums of choice.

Laurie Shaffer of the FWS was the Art Director for the Federal Duck stamp project. The Modeler was Donald Woo.

The new Duck stamp is available in the following formats:

- Water-activated gum (WAG) pane of 20 (USPS order number 334200).

- Pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) pane of 1 (334300).

There also are these Duck Philatelic Products:

- Migratory Bird Uncut Press Sheet (WAG), (334284, \$1,440).
- Migratory Bird Uncut Press Sheet (PSA), (334384, \$500).
- Migratory Bird Silk Cachet, (541062, \$25).
- Migratory Bird Artist Commemorative Card, (541092, \$50).

The pane of 20 was printed by the Banknote Corporation of America division of Sennett Security Products using an offset process with "USPS" microprinting as added security against counterfeiting of offset-printed stamps. A total of 200,000 stamps with water-activated gum were printed in panes of 20

Colors used to print the stamps were black, cyan, magenta, yellow and PMS 476 (brown). The plate numbers in the four corners of each pane consist of the letter "S" to identify Sennett Security as the primary contractor followed by five single digits, one for each print color.

"ARTIST: ROBERT BEALLE" and "DEPARTMENT OF THE

INTERIOR 20 x \$15.00" also appears in four positions on the pane, along with one plate diagram showing the position of the particular pane on the full sheet as printed and before cutting into panes.

The PSA single-stamp pane (pictured, bottom of previous column) also was printed by Banknote Corp. The total print quantity was 2,800,000 stamps. Colors used were black, cyan, magenta and yellow; there are no plate numbers on these panes, which include a header: "The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service" • 2010-2011 Migratory Bird • Hunting & Conservation Stamp • Artist: Robert Bealle • American Wigeon" and additional descriptive text.

Shown here is the Artist signed pane, which sells for \$50 each. When the first such panes were issued there was a considerable run-up in the prices, but most recently they carry only a modest premium, if any—although a small quantity of the 2008-2009 pane reached the public without a signature and do carry a significant premium.

Rui Huang, an 18-year-old from Columbus, Ohio, created the new Junior Duck Stamp, featuring a hooded merganser. Huang's art was chosen from among 51 Best-of Show winners from every state and the District of Columbia



at the National Junior Duck Stamp, held April 23 in St. Paul, Minn.

Bealle and Huang are scheduled to be on hand at the June 25 ceremony. After a formal ceremony and the sale of the first stamps, the artists and other event participants will be available for autographs and photo

opportunities.

For First Day Cancellations, **keep in mind that as Ducks are Revenue stamps, not postage stamps, a First Class Letter Rate stamp (44¢ for regular envelope sizes) will be needed in addition to the Duck Stamp.** Send your covers with stamps affixed to Duck Stamp Station, Postmaster, PO Box 9998, Hanover, MD 21076-9998. You can address the covers to yourself or others or you can include a cover for the return of your cancelled covers in order to protect them from damage or double cancelling in the mail. The deadline for requests is August 24, 2010.



DUCK STAMP STATION
Hanover, Maryland 21076
June 25, 2010

To purchase the various Duck Stamp products, the Artist Signed Pane is available only from the FWS Sales agent, Amplex Corp., at www.duckstamp.com and the Uncut Press Sheet is available only from the USPS at the usual mail order outlets. All of the other products are available from both sources.

And, of course, all these Duck Products as well as stamps and other collectibles going back to the first Duck stamps as well as State Duck and Conservation stamps are available from *Mekeel's & Stamps* Duck stamp advertisers.

